



# Clermont County On The Move

*a newsletter for citizens*

**Commissioners: Bob Proud, Mary Walker, and Scott Croswell**  
**November 2005**

## 2006 Signals Change at Board of Elections

Clermont County citizens will be casting their ballots with new voting equipment on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, May 2, 2006. The new voting equipment is required as a result of the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and is fully funded by a federal grant. The new system is designed to give voters more control of the process and to expedite results.

The new precinct optical scanners will be utilized at each of Clermont County's 200 precincts and will require voters to scan their own ballots after making their selections by filling in the ovals. The primary purpose of the new precinct optical scanners is to solidify voter intent by providing them total control of their ballot, from the time it is issued by the ballot judge, to the time it is counted.

The voter will also be alerted if they have over voted in a race. An over vote occurs when someone casts a vote for a greater number of candidates than permitted. If this occurs, the voter will have the opportunity to obtain a new ballot and correct the mistake. The voter would return the incorrect ballot to the ballot judge and that ballot would be voided, before a fresh ballot is issued.

Once the voter scans the ballot, it automatically goes into a secured

ballot box that is connected directly to the precinct scanner.

After the polls close on election night, the voting equipment will be "shut down" by the presiding judge. The ballots, along with the disk from the precinct scanner that contains the results for that precinct, will be returned to the Board of Elections. Upon receipt, the Board will compile results from the 200 disks, coupled with the absentee ballots, for the "unofficial" count on election night. The unofficial results should be available quickly on election night.

"From a voters perspective, the new scanners will be very user friendly," said Clermont Board of Elections Director Dan Bare. "We're very pleased at the successful testing of the new system."

In addition to the new precinct optical scanners, an additional American with Disabilities Act-compliant voting device (Auto Mark) will be available at each polling location for disabled citizens providing an opportunity for them to vote independently.



**Dan Bare**  
**Clermont Board of**  
**Elections Director**

The Board of Elections has also converted to the new HAVA-compliant software that is used to administer other applications, such as new registrations, poll worker management, provisional voting, absentee voting, polling locations, ballot definition, and public records requests. The new software is also connected to the

Office of the Secretary of State to ensure proper statewide management of voter registration and to prevent voter fraud by eliminating duplications within the 88 counties.

"As with any major conversion we anticipate a few bumps in the road, but in the end, the new voting system and associated administrative processes will provide a higher level of credibility to an already sound process," said Bare.

In coming weeks additional information will be available as part of the "voter education" effort. We will also provide detailed training for all poll workers. "I cannot begin to express our continued appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the poll workers that make election day happen," added Bare.

## Last Chance Award

By: Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg

The Clermont County Sheriff's Office was one of only five nominees in the United States, selected to receive the prestigious *Peter O'Rourke Special Achievement Award* for national traffic safety recognition. The office's *Last Chance Driving* initiative was nominated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Lt. Randy Harvey, who administers, coordinates, and teaches the program, accepted the award at the Governor's Highway Safety conference on August 31, 2005 in Norfolk, Virginia, on behalf of Sheriff Rodenberg and the Sheriff's Office.



In the year 2000, the Clermont County Sheriff's Office identified a significant

accident trend among the county's young drivers. This prompted the staff to create the "Last Chance Driving Program," specially designed to educate and train repeat juvenile traffic offenders. It is a cooperative effort between the Sheriff's Office, Clermont County Juvenile Court, Clermont County Juvenile Probation, and Child Focus.

The program, which is held at the Sheriff's office twice a month, allows certain juvenile traffic offenders to

complete an eight hour course of instruction in lieu of a license suspension. Chief Deputy Rick Combs explained that all operating costs and expenses for the program, including staff time and class materials, are paid for by program participants.

Over the past four years, approximately 2,800 teen drivers have completed the program. After completing the program the teens are monitored for an additional six months for traffic offenses; an estimated 80 percent of the program participants have avoided additional traffic crashes and violations.

**above photo: Lt. Randy Harvey and Chief Deputy Rick Combs**

## Parade Recognizes Veterans



The annual Clermont County Veterans Day Parade will be held on Friday, November 11, 2005 on Main Street in Batavia, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

"This parade will be held rain or shine," said Director of the Clermont County Veterans' Service Commission Mark Coyle. "I encourage everyone to wave an American flag along the parade route and come on out to support those who are currently serving or who have served their country in the military."

The parade will begin lining up at the Batavia Post Office at 6:30 p.m. If you're interested in taking part, please call the Parade Hotline at (513) 732-7245.

## November Commissioner Sessions



Wednesday, Nov. 2	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 9	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 15	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 16	1:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 29	1:00 p.m.

All regular sessions are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street in Batavia, Ohio. For agenda information, contact the BCC offices at (513) 732-7300.



*The turkey was nominated to be the official bird of the United States, but it lost out to the bald eagle.*

## Issue 6: *Vote for Kids*



On Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, voters will be asked to decide on the Clermont County Children's Protective Services (CPS) levy; it is Issue 6 on the ballot. The voters of Clermont County have approved the levy each of the four times it has previously been on the ballot.

The purpose of the levy is to allow CPS to continue to provide services to the abused,

neglected, and dependant children of Clermont County. Due to increasing needs and the number of children in the system, the current levy is not able to support current and projected costs. Issue 6 is requesting that voters grant an increase from .8 mills to 1 mill, meaning the cost to a family who owns a \$100,000 home would be an additional \$10.69 per year. The funds from the CPS Levy are used to provide services to children such as:

- foster care
- residential treatment services
- intensive home-based services
- adoption assistance to families with "special needs" children
- specialized services for children and families

The levy funds are not spent on administrative costs or salaries. The need for additional levy dollars is caused by multiple issues. As Clermont County continues to grow, the number of abuse cases increases. The number of children in custody has grown more than 50 percent since 2002. The cost of services for children in custody has increased 37 percent since 2002. Current levy revenue has increased by only 7 percent since 2002.

Approximately 80 percent of the children in CPS custody have at least one parent who is addicted to drugs or alcohol. Clermont County has also been hit hard by the methamphetamine epidemic; in 2004, 40 children were placed in foster care as a result of methamphetamine cases.

## And the Winner is.....

By Debi Johnson, Clermont County Jail Medical Department



It brings us great pride to announce that Southern Health Partners has named the Clermont County Jail as the recipient of their outstanding site of the quarter award! The Clermont County Jail was selected for the honor from a field of 100 candidates.

The team at the Clermont Jail provides an excellent representation of the ideal jail medical program; it is implemented in an organized, efficient, and professional manner at all times. Inmates here are always treated with dignity and respect, and the level of cooperation between the security and medical staffs has contributed to a cohesive working relationship. With loyal, dedicated employees such as these, it's no wonder we succeed!



So, if you see Lynda Ellis, MTA; Yvonne Wallace, LPN; Lynn Leist, LPN; Jessica Brune, LPN; Irene Phillips, LPN; Sheila Thomas, LPN; Debi Johnson, LPN; Jo Prickett, RN (psych nurse); Trish Jones, RN; and Angel Dreyer, unit clerk, say congratulations to the winning team at the Clermont County Jail!

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## Lykins Golf Outing Raises Money for Clermont Abused and Neglected Children

By: Christina Mullis, CASA

The sixteenth annual Lykins Oil Golf Outing to benefit Clermont County's abused and neglected children, was a success. The September 14 event at Legendary Run brought out 106 registered golfers and raised \$20,000 for CASA for Clermont Kids!



"Lykins Companies, Inc. have been most generous to CASA for Clermont Kids!" said CASA for Clermont Executive Director Karey Ringland. "We can't thank our sponsor enough for the support continually provided. Because of this annual event, CASA is able to provide advocacy services to 150 children."

New to the event this year was a poker run. Each golf foursome received a card at selected holes to try their hand at a game of poker.

Following the golf outing, a dinner was held featuring a live auction and a great supply of creative baskets that were raffled.

For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please call (513) 735-SAFE or visit their website, [www.casaforclermontkids.org](http://www.casaforclermontkids.org).



### Free Concert Clermont Philharmonic Presents *A Romantic Adventure*

The Clermont Philharmonic Orchestra will hold a free concert at Krueger Auditorium at UC Clermont College on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. Selections will include Capriccio Italien (Tschaikowsky), Molly on the Shore (Grainer), Hungarian March (Berlioz), Peer Gynt Suite Number 1 (Grieg), and Italian Symphony Number 4 (Mendelssohn).

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## Earthquake Drill Tests Preparedness

On Tuesday, October 18, 2005, representatives from Clermont County government offices gathered at the Pattison Park Lodge in Owensville for a disaster response exercise, organized by the Office of Technology, Communications, and Security.



The day long tabletop exercise educated the participants about landslides and earthquakes and how they could impact this area. The exercise involved a mock earthquake that interrupted government operations in Batavia, challenging the group to quickly mobilize business continuity plans to make sure citizens would continue to be served.



The tabletop exercise was part of an ongoing effort to ensure that Clermont County is adequately prepared in the event of a disaster.



## Find a new "best friend"



*Tatoo*



*Tubby*

*Lots of puppies and kittens are now available!*

**732-8854**



*Candy*

**Clermont  
Animal Shelter**



*The Plymouth Pilgrims held their first Thanksgiving celebration in 1621. It lasted three days!*

## Clermont County Public Library Wants To Record Veterans' Histories

By: Sandy Prell, Clermont Library

The Clermont County Public Library is participating in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project by collecting first-hand accounts of U.S. veterans' experiences. Veterans and civilian support personnel from World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts will have their remembrances recorded by library staff. These interviews will be sent to the Library of Congress and archived as a resource for historians and future generations.

The library will be scheduling and conducting interviews beginning in November. If you are a veteran, a former civilian support person, or know someone who would be interested in participating, please call Mary Adkins at 735-7174 or email [adkinsma@oplin.org](mailto:adkinsma@oplin.org)

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*On the Move* is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about any of the articles included in this publication, contact Kathy Lehr or Beth Rawdon at **732-7597**.